

Scenes
of
The Canadian
Rockies

Photogelatine Engraving Co. Limited,
Ottawa, - Canada.



THE CANADIAN ROCKIES

By DUNCAN W. JOHNSON

Banff National Park in the Canadian Rockies has captured the heart of Nature lovers for many years. A sojourn in this Fairyland at the Top of the World will live forever enshrined in the heart of the visitor as one of his or her most cherished experiences.

Approaching Banff from the East, through the Gap, which opens majestically to receive you, the beautiful Three Sisters stand in solemn and sublime beauty above you, as though giving you their benediction as you enter the mountains. The journey to Banff over the splendid motor road or by train is a succession of thrills. Here and there one glimpses through myriad passes, glorious mountain valleys which seem to entice one with their towering peaks, snow-capped and cloud-wraithed. All about you is magnificent scenery, miles on miles of Alpine beauty. But the climax of it all is your arrival at the town of Banff, headquarters of the park, a compact little town nestling in the green valley of the Bow, girdled on every hand by a circle of lofty and beautiful peaks. Majestically situated, Banff and its immediate environs is like a dream town ensconced in a dream valley.

The winding Bow, having rushed madly from Castle in a series of rapids, quiets down a few miles above Banff into the sedatest of streams, widening out into little lakes just west of Banff, the most beautiful of which is Vermilion Lake, whose surface mirrors in magic witchery all the wonders and glories of the Valley of the Bow at this point. The writing desk slope of Mount Rundle, 9665 feet in altitude is reflected in perfect symmetry on the mirroring surface of the lake. Lowering peaks, pine-clad hills, all in panoramic beauty lend themselves to the artistry of Vermilion Lake, adding to the charms of the Bow Valley.

Standing like an old world Castle at the foot of Mount Rundle, Banff Springs Hotel adds another aesthetic touch to the circle of charms that has made Banff synonymous with beauty in the hearts of nature lovers for many years. Here the altitude is 4538 feet above the sea, and the rarity and purity of the air has an effect as exhilarating as wine. One day at Banff is just a foretaste of innumerable pleasures; a week, a month or more serves but to increase the desire to remain longer in this, the most lovely scenic area in the world. Banff Springs Hotel and other fine hotels,

bungalow camps and campsites, give additional charm and add daily also to the experiences which flood in upon one as he tarries here and views the majestic heights of Mount Rundle, Cascade, Pilot, Mount Aylmer, etc., walks or rides over the trails and roads that open up to view glorious lakes, like Lake Minnewanka, Kananaskis, the Bow and many others, swims in the pure mineral waters of the Upper and Lower Hot Springs, plays golf on the course that is known the world over as one of the world's most beautiful courses, feels the thrills at sunrise as the Sun God bathes in golden colours the snow-kissed heights of lofty mountain peaks, or fishes in lakes and streams where the trout rises swiftly to the fly. Just a few of the experiences of a summer's holiday at Banff! No one can relate the full gamut of mountain experiences that await the visitor to Banff.

The scene from Banff Avenue cannot be duplicated anywhere in the world. Look East or West or North or South, a panorama of glorious Alpine beauty greets the eye. There at one end of Banff Avenue, the turreted heights of Cascade create the desire to climb the winding, twisting trail to see the beauty which you feel somehow must lie beyond. At the other end, Sulphur Mountain and Mount Rundle and the winding Spray also have their special call for those less venturesome. Happy is he, who makes the climb for his own perseverance and tenacity opens up to his vision still more Alpine worlds to conquer, explore and see. To the novice, the hike up Tunnel or Sulphur affords the same thrill and experience, a foretaste of the glorious experiences that await one as he or she graduates from the novice class as an Alpine climber. And so it is from day to day—as one sojourns in this Valley, and lives its glorious life and partakes of its innumerable experiences. The days are too short. Time speeds by like a shaft of speeding light and the Trail ahead calls.

And so it is, Westward along the Motor Road you speed to enter a few miles westward the beautiful region known the world over as Lake Louise. The road, winding and climbing for 40 miles and more opens up new vistas, wilder, more weird and more thrilling. There at length in the distance the noble heads of Mount Lefroy and Temple are glimpsed; the air cool and sweet with balsam and pine sends the blood abounding; a mad, mad stream leaping from

stone to stone gives its thrilling music to your eager ears; paint brush and fireweed, snow-clad peaks and azure skies, all create an eager expectancy as at length you round a corner and catch a first glimpse of Victoria Glacier, and then as you pass the portico you gaze upon the supreme glory of the Rockies, beautiful Lake Louise, lying like a radiant jewel at the feet of Mount Lefroy, Beehive and Victoria Glacier, mirroring in its turquoise blue surface all the glories of the loveliest lake and mountain region in the world. Once upon a time you dreamed, perchance of Fairyland, perhaps of Paradise. Here the dreams come true as you view, "this haunted lake among the pine-clad mountains, forever smiling towards the skies", mirroring forever the massive heights of Victoria Glacier and towering Mount Lefroy and Beehive. So real is this experience that one turns with surprise to enter the palatial confines of the lovely chalet, Lake Louise Chalet, the Sister Hotel of the Banff Springs Hotel, where like it, all the luxurious service of an elite and modern hotel assures you of comfort and luxurious ease as you tarry here to experience the thrills of the climb to the Lake in the Clouds to Lake Agnes or up the turreted height of Mount Lefroy, or by trail along the mirroring lake to the foot of massive Victoria Glacier, or by drive or walk or pony ride up into the Valley of the Ten Peaks, past Paradise Valley to the Shores of Moraine Lake, whose waters are fed by the glacial heights of Temple and the Ten Peaks.

Here the scene is of such a stupendous Nature, that into your very soul seeps this thought, "The wonders of the Great Master Artist are so awesome and glorious, one knows He tarries here, for these wild towering heights like glorious Mount Temple yonder, surely are the creations of the Master's hand."

Yes, these are experiences born out of the glory of the Lake Louise area. Memories of these experiences and the thoughts born into your soul is the heritage with which you are endowed in this glorious region. Forget them? Never! They will live forever as your most precious endowment.

Too soon again, the call of the road sends you speeding over Banff-Jasper Highway and again into still more spectacular scenery to the great Saskatchewan Glacier which crowns the serried heights of Mount Saskatchewan, and great Columbia Ice-field, the mother of the great western rivers, the Saskatchewan and the Athabaska.

Perchance, as you wend your way back once more, you hear the call of the Yoho, and reach the magic valley of the Yoho and the Kicking Horse at Field, B.C., where from Mount Stephen House, Field, you pass over one of Nature's finest avenues, Snow Peak Avenue, 7 miles out to one of Nature's most exquisite gems, beautiful Emerald Lake, which lies like a diamond at the foot of Mount Burgess and Wapta. Remote from the world it lies at the end of the snow-peaked avenue, girdled by giant mountains, Van Horne, President, Burgess and Wapta. Here a lovely Alpine Chalet, Emerald Lake Chalet, and its splendid bungalows cater to the well-being of the material man in a delectable way, whilst remote from the scenes of everyday life, he grows closer and closer to the great Master Artist, who aeons ago created this lovely Paradise, and its gem of a lake whose emerald surface makes it one of the loveliest natural mirrors in the world. Just one peek into this mirror is a thrill one will cherish in the days to come.

And yet again, the Banff-Windermere Highway endowed as it is with ten thousand beauties has its magnetic call also. One never may forget the thrill as one passes through one of the great wonders of this, the Rockies, great high-walled Sinclair Pass to worship anew at the feet of Mother Nature in Kootenay National Park. Each mountain area has its endowment and thrills.

Kootenay Park, British Columbia, is by no means an exception. It is situated on the western slope of the Rockies, its northeastern and northwestern boundaries adjoining those of Banff and Yoho National Parks. Here again remarkable features may be seen and experiences gained—glaciers, waterfalls, iceberg lakes, numerous canyons, and hot mineral springs assure the tourist of a glorious holiday, whilst its Radium Hot Springs, one of the hottest in the Rockies, allure the tourist and endow him with new Coins of Life.

Never ending are the experiences of Canada's great National Parks. Everlasting are the memories of glorious days spent in Canada's great Alpine Playgrounds.

Up in the Rockies, Mother Nature is calling,
Come unto me, Oh children of mine!
Here midst my glories I await thee forever,
To endow thee with Blessings supremely divine.

JA06



1. MIRRORED IN THE VERMILION LAKES, BEAUTIFUL MOUNT RUNDLE IS ONE OF THE DOMINANT LANDSCAPE FEATURES AT BANFF, ALBERTA.



2. BANFF AVENUE AND CASCADE MOUNTAIN FROM THE LANDSCAPED
GROUNDS WHICH SURROUND THE NATIONAL PARK ADMINISTRATION
BUILDING AT BANFF.



3. TOWERING ABOVE THE BOW RIVER LIKE A BARONIAL CASTLE, BANFF SPRINGS HOTEL HAS ONE OF THE FINEST SETTINGS ON THE CONTINENT.



4. THE BROAD VALLEY OF THE BOW RIVER AS SEEN FROM SULPHUR MOUNTAIN. BANFF SPRINGS HOTEL AND GOLF COURSE IN THE FOREGROUND.



5. THE THREE SISTERS STAND GUARD OVER THE BOW RIVER AT THE EASTERN ENTRANCE OF BANFF NATIONAL PARK.



6. CHATEAU LAKE LOUISE, IS ONE OF THE PALATIAL SUMMER HOTELS OPERATED BY THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY IN THE CANADIAN ROCKIES.



7. SURROUNDED BY GIGANTIC MOUNTAINS, MORaine LAKE LIES IN THE VALLEY OF THE TEN PEAKS, SEVEN MILES FROM LAKE LOUISE.



8. MOUNT VICTORIA AND ITS ENORMOUS GLACIER FORM A PERFECT
BACKGROUND FOR BEAUTIFUL LAKE LOUISE



9 BOW LAKE AND THE CROWFOOT GLACIER ARE AMONG THE SIGHTS
ALONG THE BANFF-JASPER HIGHWAY WHICH LINKS BANFF AND JASPER
PARKS



10. THE SHEER WALLS OF SINCLAIR CANYON RISE ABOVE THE BANFF-WINDERMERE HIGHWAY IN KOOTENAY NATIONAL PARK.



11. MOUNT SASKATCHEWAN AND THE SASKATCHEWAN GLACIER WHICH FORMS THE HEADWATERS OF THE SASKATCHEWAN RIVER.



12. ALMOST HIDDEN IN A GROVE OF EVERGREENS, EMERALD LAKE CHALET
AND BUNGALOWS LIE AT THE BASE OF MOUNT BURGESS IN YOHO
NATIONAL PARK.



